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## Research Article

### FEMININE PSYCHE TOWARDS MALE PARTNER IN 'THE PROFESSOR'

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#### ABSTRACT

As the novel, 'The Professor' is the first novel Charlotte Bronte and dealt with natural products of the Low Countries, it has literary curiosity. It is associated with important characters namely Zoraide, Frances and Crimsworth. Zoraide and Frances have different approach to win the heart of Crimsworth who is the narrator of the story. In this connection Frances keeps worldly values whereas Zoraide has feminine ego. As a professor he could hear their voice at the very beginning. She has used her business talent when she made Crimsworth to agree to her proposal regarding his appointment as professor. By using her talent and physical charm Zoraide tries to dominate Crimsworth. Meanwhile she is secretly engaged to Pelet as he is rich. In the presence of Pelet, Zoraide degrades Crimsworth's personality. After knowing the matrimony of Zoraide and Pelet, Crimsworth resigns his post and analyses the actions of Zoraide. The relationship between Frances and Crimsworth is another interesting topic. Integrity is the significant characteristic feature of Frances. As a poor girl she wants to improve her personality in Brussels. At the very beginning Zoraide identifies the poor performance of Frances. She is unable to follow the dictation Crimsworth. He could observe every movement of Frances in his class. Though she is poor she could attract Crimsworth by her physical beauty. After becoming teacher she uses simple and useful language which is never trite or dry. She has a kind of talent to solve the problems of her pupils. She is workaholic. Her remarkable quality is a willing submission to male dominance. Crimsworth also accepts her. She succeeds to involve in man's paradise. They understand each other, lead to have a life of satisfaction and peace. Zoraide and Frances are good looking women but Zoraide has coyness whereas Frances has fairy like. Though they have different channels they have succeeded in their life. It enlightens what kind of involvement the Victorian women have to get success in their life.

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#### INTRODUCTION

'The Professor' is the first novel of Charlotte Bronte. It is a picture of school life at Brussels. It has literary curiosity as it is the natural product of the Low Countries. Mainly the novel deals with life in Brussels and three principal characters namely Zoraide Reuter, William Crimsworth and Frances Evans Henri. Initially there is a relationship between Zoraide and Crimsworth. Later it is seen between Frances and Crimsworth as Zoraide is secretly engaged to Pelet who is rich. The Portrayal of Zoraide and Frances indicates the similar aspect of the lot of women in Victorian times. Both are interested in making a meaningful life. Zoraide tries to dominate or get equal level in the men whom she meets. According to Crimsworth she is intellect, firmness and balance of character. She can afford to be independent in her choice whatever she chooses. She is very sharp in her judgement. The character of Zoraide indicates to avoid male dominance, which is a part of the Victorian Picture.

Frances tries to improve herself as Crimsworth is intellectual one. She prefers to protect worldly values to lead comfortable life. She finds in Crimsworth a sense of security. Frances is willing to let her feminine ego and support the male ego as it is her ambition to lead ideal life. The approach of Zoraide and Frances is different in the female versus male characters. William Crimsworth is the narrator of the novel and the action begins with his appointment as Professor at Pelet's school in Brussels. At the very beginning Crimsworth listens attentively to the voices of the young ladies to be of the school. He could hear their honest truth, sentimental reflections in brazen sounds which penetrated glamorously into his solitude. They have been sent to the school to be trained as cultured ladies in the society. But their attitude is almost savage. The relationship between Crimsworth and Zoraide starts at the moment he meets her for his job. Having kept cleverness and fluent reasoning Zoraide makes Crimsworth agree to a sum of five hundred francs per annum for his appointment. He amuses at the business talent of Zoraide. She has more awareness to know the expectations of Crimsworth. By using her fluency she nailed Crimsworth to five hundred francs per annum.

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Initially Crimsworth does not have clear opinion on Zoraide as she keeps herself in the shade and he keeps himself is short sighted. She is not only thin but also bony figure. The next day she was very kind and gentle and shows a great amount of concern for Crimsworth. She pays interest for his class. She gives her hand to Crimsworth after the class is over. He doesn't have disappointment when she looks at him with affection. He feels very happy on spending his time at the lecture of Zoraide and some other conversation occurred between them. She knows Crimsworth is observing her. She tries to allure him with her physical charm. There is coyness in Zoraide which makes her physically desirable. All the time Zoraide evaluates and estimates Crimsworth. In her approach she wants to dominate Crimsworth. Especially as an intellectual she wishes to assert her superiority over William Crimsworth. She prizes her intellect to a great extent and it is reason rather than passion that guides her in her actions. Zoraide enjoys herself with male partner in verbal interaction. Crimsworth enjoyed himself the game in which sometimes he gives her hopes. She does not give any opportunity of attacking her with feeling. It is a regular drawn battle between Zoraide and Crimsworth.

The duality of Zoraide is seen when talking to Pelet. She always treats Crimsworth with as much reserve as it is possible to combine with civility. She extends that how can she prefers an unknown foreigner to Pelet. She says that there is no comparison between Pelet and Crimsworth either physically or mentally. He is not handsome to her. Some persons call him gentleman like and intelligent looking but her part he is not. Soon the announcement is made of the matrimony between Pelet and Zoraide. Crimsworth resigns his post and analyses the actions of Zoraide. According to him she is the woman of extreme practical sense and has the strength of will to achieve her goals that she sets for herself. If she failed in dominating Crimsworth she has been successful in hoodwinking and making him fall for her charms. She has now pursued the path of commonsense in her final decision to marry Pelet. Mr. Hunsden, a friend of William Crimsworth has observed a course of resolution of William Crimsworth and Zoraide.

There is another important issue in this novel is the relationship between Frances and Crimsworth. Integrity is one of the most important characteristic features of Frances. Zoraide introduced Frances, to Crimsworth, a pupil who would attend the class. Later with her statement Zoraide tries to dissuade Frances from showing any interest in William Crimsworth. As a poor girl Frances has not received much education and her learning may help her professionally. Zoraide is condescending in her attitude to Frances. She is from Switzerland. As she comes from poor family, she begs her aunt to let her go to Brussels. But she is unable to improve herself in Brussels. Her plan is to earn little money by learning lace mending. With this little money she can learn English so that she can find a place as a governess or school teacher. She hears that England is something unique. If she has not clear mind Frances is a person with great resources both of the mind and the heart. In his class Crimsworth gave a short exercise. In his observation Frances was confused at first with the strange form and language. He did not like to help her when she was looking painful and not understanding. He perceived her face clouded with embarrassment, while he was dictating a little faster. She evidently found she had made a great nonsense of it. He

disregarded her appeal, slouched and glanced from time to time. On his spectacles Crimsworth has observed the clear appearance of Frances. She looked young. The slightness of her figure might have suited seventeen. All the features of Frances are different from other girls. She is exceptionally beautiful, but moderate in her attraction. Crimsworth is attracted by the physical beauty of Frances.

As a teacher Frances uses simple and unpretending language which is never trite or dry. The phrases of her language are not only nervous but also impressive. Though her general demeanour towards the people is serious they love her seriously. She is capable of handling her pupils. A gleam of tenderness softened her eyes and manner but it is rare. She speaks gently and softly in the evenings. She encourages, cherishes and at the time of bed she dismisses with a kiss of true tenderness. There are two remarkable qualities in Frances which Crimsworth admires namely perseverance and a sense of duty. In her teaching two qualities are seen.

They are tractability and firmness. As penniless, parentless and charmless Frances is the best object of sympathy to Crimsworth. He had either confidence in Frances or respect for her. She does not have tiresomeness in her work. After completing one work she is ready to take another work. Both the character and simple charm attract Crimsworth and make him love her. The qualities he most appreciates in Frances seem to be those that are marked by a willing submission to male dominance. With love Crimsworth has succeeded to accept Frances symbolically moves away from the cemetery to life. It may be paradise-a man's paradise. Crimsworth always makes Frances happy. She likes his speech and companionship. She feels that he is stern to those who are careless and idle but he is kind to the attentive and industrious. It indicates her admiration for Crimsworth. As husband and wife, Crimsworth and Frances have a sense of satisfaction and peace.

Both Zoraide and Frances want better station in life but the sincerity of Frances is highlighted. However the differences lie in Frances's tenderness which adds an aura of beauty to her perseverance. They are good looking women. Zoraide has coyness to approach Crimsworth whereas Frances has fairy like. Zoraide tries to dominate Crimsworth and equal him in terms of intellect, though she knows that he is above her. It indicates the battle of male-female ego. On the other hand Frances is submissive willing to learn and acknowledges Crimsworth's superiority. As hypocritical, Zoraide always keeps Pelet in check while playing with Crimsworth. Finally it is not the desire of the heart or desire of the seeking of the intellect but a financially comfortable position that leads to Zoraide's marriage. In Frances it is the admiration she has for William Crimsworth's intellect and the confidence she has in his character, and her willingness to play second fiddle that culminates in the marriage. At the very beginning Crimsworth observed different levels and layers in the personality of the girls' contrasting appearance and reality as he listened to the shouting of the girls of the Brussels school.

The novel, *The Professor*, presents an interesting portrait of two women characters with relation to Crimsworth who is a sort of a tabula rasa on which the two women characters are portrayed and etched in almost contrasting dimensions. Both the women characters have an urge for success and

involvement in their profession. Thus the characters Zoraide and Frances provide the two different shades of the feminine psyche.

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